Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Happy Halloween! This morning the Illinois State Board of Education made public all school and district report cards by posting them to our website. If you have not already made this document available publicly, please do so immediately.

As we have been reviewing the report card results I want to share some positive findings. Even as we have seen the performance benchmarks increase under No Child Left Behind, some schools are making incredible progress. Nine schools that were previously placed in improvement status based on performance have been removed from status because they were able to meet Adequate Yearly Progress for two consecutive years. They are:

- Mount Greenwood Elementary School, City of Chicago School District 299
- Glacier Ridge Elementary School, Crystal Lake CCSD 47
- Frederick School, Grayslake CCSD 46
- Pepper Ridge Elementary School, McLean County USD 5
- Oakwood Grade School, Oakwood CUSD 76
- Virginia Lake Elementary School, Palatine CCSD 15
- Peoria Heights Grade School, Peoria Heights CUSD 325
- Calvin Coolidge Middle School, Peoria SD 150
- Oak Prairie Jr. High School, Will County SD 92

I do continue to have concerns about the disconnect between the PSAE and the ISAT, which will be addressed as we implement the Common Core and the new assessments aligned to them. The vast majority of our high schools did not make AYP this year, but eight high schools and one high school district, Adlai E Stevenson High School District 125, did make AYP this year based on PSAE scores. The eight high schools are:

- Glenbrook North High School, Northfield Twp HSD 225
- Lane Technical High School, City of Chicago SD 299
- Jones College Prep High School, City of Chicago SD 299
- Young Magnet High School, City of Chicago SD 299
- Northside College Preparatory High School, City of Chicago SD 299
- Payton College Preparatory High School, City of Chicago SD 299
- Adlai E Stevenson High School, Adlai E Stevenson HSD 125
- Dunlap High School, Dunlap Community Unit School District 323

Finally, it was my hope that after the first week of Veto Session (i.e., last week) we would be closer to a resolution on the lack of salary payments to our Regional Superintendents and their Assistants. As I’ve said many times over, Illinois needs a regional delivery system for professional development, technical assistance and other services to our districts, and the State Board and I am, to say the least, disappointed this has not been resolved. As the State Education Agency, we are not interested in the source of funds for these important services, but just so we are clear, our Regional Superintendents and their Assistants deserve prompt payment of their back pay and pension credit for work performed from July 1, as well as to be paid their expected salaries going forward. The State Board and I sincerely appreciate...
these individuals and the staff in their offices continuing to provide services and hope that the General Assembly can repair this troubling scenario during the second week of Veto Session (i.e., the week of Nov. 7). I encourage you to reach out and discuss this with your local legislators.

Thanks
Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- Parent Involvement Fall Summit, Hilton Springfield – Nov. 1
- Parent Involvement Regional Summit in Springfield – Nov. 1
- National Refugee and Immigrant Conference: Issues and Innovations in Chicago – Nov. 7-8
- 21st CCLC Full Service Community Schools “How to” Orientation Kaskaskia College, Centralia – Nov. 8
- 21st CCLC New Grantee Workshop, Marriott Convention Center, Normal – Nov. 9
- 21st CCLC Fiscal and Evaluation Workshop, Marriott Convention Center, Normal – Nov. 10
- 21st CCLC Full Service Community Schools “How to” Orientation Holiday Inn, Rockford – Nov. 15
- 21st CCLC Full Service Community Schools “How to” Orientation Comfort Inn, Orland Park – Nov. 17
- Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet deadline – Nov. 15
- 2011-12 Unfilled Positions Survey deadline – Nov. 15
- 2011-12 Immunization/Health Examination Data Collection deadline – Nov. 15
- 2010-11 LEA Annual Financial Report – Due to ROEs/ISCs Oct. 14 and due to ISBE Nov. 15 (with the exception of those who received an “Extension of Time” approval letter)
- ISBE offices closed for Thanksgiving – Nov. 24 and 25
- Part 25 (Certification), Part 375 (Student Records), and Part 425 (Voluntary Registration and Recognition of Nonpublic Schools) – Public comment period ends Nov. 28
- FY12 NCLB Monitoring Instrument – Nov. 30
- FY12 NCLB Title I Comparability Analysis – Nov. 30
- 2012 Illinois Arts Education Week Poster Contest deadline – Nov. 30
- FY 12 School Technology Revolving Loan Program (STRLP) application deadline – Dec. 1
- Gifted Advisory Council ISBE Springfield Office – Dec. 5
- 2011-2012 Teacher Service Record data deadline – Dec. 15
- Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) and Part 151 (School Construction Program) – Public comment period ends Dec. 19
- Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report deadline – Dec. 31
- Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Spring ’12 – Jan. 13
- Deadline to submit written opt-out petition to regional superintendent of schools for Summer Food Service Program mandate (Public Act 096-0734) – Jan. 15
- Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) and Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant) – Public comment period ends Jan. 30
- 2011-12 Teacher Salary Study data form deadline – Feb. 1
- 2011-12 Noncertified Staff Salary Study survey – Feb. 1
- 2011-12 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline – June 30

Finance and Audit Committee

Joint FY 2013 Early Learning Budget Hearing Scheduled for Nov. 29 in Chicago

The Illinois State Board of Education will host a joint public hearing on the fiscal year 2013 budget at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29, in Chicago at the James R. Thompson Center. The hearing will have an emphasis on Early Learning. Representatives from ISBE, the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and Governor’s Office will be attending. The joint budget hearing is the last of a series of meetings held across the state with the ISBEs Finance and Audit Committee.
• **What:** ISBE Finance and Audit Committee FY 2013 Budget Hearing

• **When:** 3 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29

• **Where:** Room 16-503, James R. Thompson Center, 100 West Randolph St., Chicago

The Illinois State Board of Education’s Finance and Audit Committee conducts public hearings each year to gather opinions about the education needs and priorities at the local level as they prepare the following year’s education budget. The State Board of Education generally recommends an education budget in January, several months prior to any General Assembly action on the next fiscal year’s budget. The board can only make a recommendation. The governor and legislators must determine how to generate revenue and set the final budget.

ISBE has already held FY 2013 budget hearings in Springfield, Edwardsville, Champaign and Wheeling. Those who are unable to attend one of the five public hearings are encouraged to email any guidance or feedback to ISBE at isbefy13@isbe.net.

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**PEAC**

**Forum for Teachers and Administrators**

*Scheduled for Monday, Nov. 7, in Chicago*

Chicago Public School (CPS) teachers and administrators are invited to weigh in on the development of evaluation systems that comply with the Performance Evaluation Reform Act of 2010 (PERA) at a forum from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7, at Lane Tech College Prep High School, 2501 West Addison.

The November 7 forum will focus specifically on evaluations of CPS teachers and administrators.

Evaluation systems under PERA will be designed to provide teachers and principals with clear and consistent standards, more constructive feedback, and stronger professional development. The systems will combine student academic growth and professional practice. The new Chicago evaluations will be implemented for principals for the 2012 school year and phased in for teachers over the 2012 and 2013 school years.

The forum will be highly interactive, with brief presentations by key leaders of ISBE and PEAC, followed by live polling, discussion, and an open Q&A session.

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**Funding and Disbursement Services**

**FY 2012 IDEA Part B Flow Through Grant Reduction**

The U.S. Department of Education has formally notified the Illinois State Board of Education of a reduction in the amount of $5,584,109 to the original FY 2012 Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B Flow Through (Section 611) grant award.

The revised district allocations and nonpublic proportionate share set aside amounts are reflected in the links provided below. The allocation reductions have been applied accordingly to FY 2012 IDEA Part B Flow Through grants in the electronic Grants Management System.

Revised FY 12 IDEA Part B Flow Through:

Revised FY 12 IDEA Part B Flow Through Nonpublic Proportionate Share:

Questions regarding the IDEA Part B calculations can be directed to Sharon Conrath at sconrath@isbe.net or (217) 782-5256.

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**School Business Services**

**Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet Deadline is Nov. 15**

Section 17-1.5 of the School Code requires school districts to limit the growth of “administrative” expenditures to a maximum of 5 percent from one fiscal year to the next. School districts must file the Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet with the Illinois State Board of Education’s School Business Services Division by Nov. 15, 2011.
A blank Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet is at http://www.isbe.net/sfms/AdminCaps/AdminCaps.htm.

Additionally, the Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet is included in the Illinois School District Annual Financial Report – June 30, 2011 (ISBE 50-35). If a completed Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet is submitted along with the school district’s Annual Financial Report, a separate worksheet does not also have to be submitted. Please note that the worksheet included in the School District Budget Form July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012 (ISBE 50-36) is a working document for local use only and will not be accepted for official submission of the Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet.


Districts exceeding the limitation may amend their budgets prior to June 30, 2012, to become in compliance with the limitation. Districts unable to amend their budgets would have to waive the limitation in order to become in compliance. School districts with administrative expenditures in the 25th percentile or below (4th quartile) may waive the limitation following a public hearing and with the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the school board. Any district waiving the limitation shall notify ISBE within 45 days of such action. If a school district that is ineligible to waive the limitation by board action exceeds the limitation solely because of circumstances beyond the control of the district and the district has exhausted all available and reasonable remedies to comply with the limitation, the district may request a waiver from ISBE. Procedures for requesting a waiver in accordance with Section 2-3.25g of the School Code can be found at http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm.

Quartile rankings for all school districts and a sample waiver resolution for qualifying districts can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/sfms/AdminCaps/AdminCaps.htm.

If you have any questions, contact Michelle Heninger, School Business Services Division, at (217) 785-8779 or mheninge@isbe.net.

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Curriculum and Instruction

2011-2012 ISBE Technology Plans Writing Guidance Webinar Scheduled for Oct. 27

If your district has a technology plan that will expire on June 30, 2012, please note that there is a new technology plan template on the IIRC. ISBE will be conducting a webinar to guide districts through the new template and provide writing guidance.

The 2011-2012 ISBE Technology Plans Writing Guidance webinar is set for 1-2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27. Space is limited. Reserve your webinar seat at https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/460140976.

This webinar will provide a walkthrough of the new, streamlined, Technology Integration Plan template and provide writing guidance for districts submitting a 2011-2012 Technology Plan.

System Requirements: For PC-based attendees, Windows 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server; for Macintosh-based attendees, Mac OS X 10.5 or newer.

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

2011-12 Immunization/Health Examination Data Collection

The Student Health Data – Immunization system is now available in IWAS for school year 2011-2012 data submission. Completed reports must be received by ISBE no later than Nov. 15, 2011. Below are links to important related documents. Please use them for assistance with submitting your data.

- Immunization and Compliance with State Law: [http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/immunization_requirements.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/immunization_requirements.pdf)
- How to Calculate Unduplicated Count: [http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/Unduplicated_Count.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/Unduplicated_Count.pdf)
- Data Entry Worksheet: [http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/immunization_worksheet.xls](http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/immunization_worksheet.xls)
- Health and Immunization Questions and answers: [http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=32907](http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=32907)
A report must be submitted for every eligible school, without exception. Schools that are not the home school for any student should submit the report by selecting the option which allows them to declare they have no data to report.

Please share this information with the school nurse or health technician and those submitting the Immunization/Health Examination data to the Illinois State Board of Education. Questions can be directed to the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950.

2011-12 Eye Examination Data Collection

The Student Health Data – Vision system is now available in IWAS for school year 2011-2012 data submission. Completed reports must be received by ISBE no later than June 30, 2012.

Below are links to important related documents. Please use them for assistance with submitting your data.

- **User Guide:** [http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/vision_iwas_guide.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/vision_iwas_guide.pdf)
- **Data Entry Worksheet:** [http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/eye_exam_wksht.xls](http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/eye_exam_wksht.xls)
- **Information Sheet:** [http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/eye_examinations.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/eye_examinations.pdf)

A report must be submitted for every eligible school, without exception. Schools that are not the home school for any student should submit the report by selecting the option which allows them to declare they have no data to report.

Please share this information with the school nurse or health technician and those submitting the Eye Examination data to the Illinois State Board of Education. Questions can be directed to the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950.

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**Illinois Secretary of State**

**School District Library Grant Application Available**

Applications are being accepted for the FY 2012 School District Library Grant. Applications and all other information concerning the grant can be found at [http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/what_we_do/schoolpercapgrant.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/what_we_do/schoolpercapgrant.html).

This year’s deadline to submit the grant application and signature page is Dec. 30. For questions concerning the grant, please contact Robert Jones at rjones1@ilsos.net or (217) 785-1168, or Becky Hunter at bhunter1@ilsos.net or 217-782-7849.

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**Nutrition**

**School Meal Service Procurement – The Invitation for Bid and Contract Process**

This training is designed to assist school food authorities (SFAs) who currently contract or are seeking to contract for school meal services with a food service management company or meal vendor in meeting all requirements associated with the Invitation for Bid and Contract process. Participants will better understand the three-step document submission and review process and receive training in developing Invitation for Bid and contract documents that meet federal and state regulations and statutes.

The training is presented in three separate webinar sessions and participants should try to “attend” all three sessions. All SFAs conducting a new procurement or considering contracting for school meal services are highly encouraged to participate in the training. Participants must be employees of the school food authority (school or district).

Pre-registration is required and is available on the Nutrition Programs Division website at [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition).

**Session 1:** The “Appetizer” — Introduction and General Requirements, 1-3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011

**Session 2:** The “Entree” — Invitation for Bid and Contract Prototype, 1-3 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011

**Session 3:** The “Side Dishes” — Attachments and Exhibits, 1-3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011

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**Rules and Waivers**

**Invitation to Comment on Rules**

Four proposed rulemakings recently reviewed by the Illinois State Board of Education are available for public
comment. The proposals have been posted on the agency’s website at http://www.isbe.net/rules; choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net.

Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)
Responds to several recently enacted statutes, particularly proposing a process to approve entities that will provide training for school board members, as is required under P.A. 97-8, effective June 13, 2011.
Deadline for Public Comment: December 19

Part 151 (School Construction Program)
Adds special education cooperatives to the entities eligible to apply for energy efficient grants under the School Construction Program, a change made by P.A. 97-205, effective July 28, 2011.
Deadline for Public Comment: December 19

Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)
Proposes that starting in the 2014-15 school year, any school district that offers kindergarten (whether full or half day) be required to administer the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey, or KIDS, and to participate in pilot administrations of the survey in the two years previous to full implementation (if chosen), unless a school district can provide evidence of capacity issues that would prevent participation.
Deadline for Public Comment: January 30

Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant)
Addresses numerous requirements related to coordinating the administration of the programs funded under the block grant with those early childhood initiatives offered through other state agencies, including participation in a quality rating system and an electronic personnel registry.
Deadline for Public Comment: January 30

Special Education

Registration Deadline Oct. 31 for the Fifth Annual Conference on Best Practices for NonPublic Special Education Programs
Registration closes Oct. 31 for the fifth annual Conference on Best Practices for Nonpublic Special Education Programs, which will be held Nov. 15-16 at the Oak Lawn Hilton.

Go to http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference/ to register. Click on “Schedule at a Glance” for an overview of the conference. The hotel has a block of rooms reserved for the conference. That information can be found in the brochure on the registration page.

Questions? Contact Paul Nijensohn at pnijenso@isbe.net or Sarah Sebert at ssebert@isbe.net.

Classroom Opportunities

Illinois First Amendment Center Offers Free Materials for Educators
The Illinois First Amendment Center in Springfield has free materials available for all grades that teach awareness, understanding and appreciation for the First Amendment. Many of the materials are paired with curriculum guides vetted by educators.

Available materials include posters (including student-designed posters), videos (for both high school and lower grades), coloring books, flash cards, curriculum guides and more. All of the materials are free and many can be downloaded online at http://www.ifac.us.

For items that must be mailed, the Illinois First Amendment Center charges a nominal postage fee to cover actual postage. There are no shipping/handling charges. All of the materials may be previewed online at www.ifac.us and either downloaded or ordered from the website.

For additional information, contact David Porter at dporter@illinoispress.org.

School Opportunities

Illinois State Bankers Association Promotes Financial Education Program
State Treasurer Dan Rutherford recently announced the launch of a new, statewide initiative to bring financial education to Illinois high schools. The program is an initiative based on a partnership between the Illinois Bankers Association and EverFi.

The EverFi financial literacy platform is underwritten by Illinois banks and savings institutions that partner with their local high schools to bring this program into the schools at no cost to the school or the state of Illinois. Financial literacy education is mandated as part of consumer education curriculum in Illinois high schools,
and this program enables high schools to meet all of the requirements under Illinois law.

Several Illinois banks already have signed on to the program, sponsoring nearly 40 high schools throughout the state, and more are being added each week.

To read more about the program, visit https://www.ilbanker.com/Documents/PR/IBA_Everfi_Launch.pdf. Educators interested in the program should contact EverFi account manager Ryan Swift at ryan@everfi.com or (202) 251-2400.

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**Professional Development**

**Discussion on Dyslexia**

**Set for Nov. 1 in Joliet**

An informational discussion on dyslexia will be held 6:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1, at the University of St. Francis Recreation Center, 500 Wilcox St., Joliet. Registration is under way. The free event, titled “Dyslexia: Translating Scientific Practice Into Legislative Action – It’s Time!,” is presented by the University of St. Francis and state Reps. Pam Roth and Linda Chapa LaVita. CPDUs are available. The discussion features Dr. Sally Shaywitz and Dr. Bennett Shaywitz, both of the Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity.


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**Student Opportunities**

**Entries Sought for Illinois Work Zone Safety Calendar Contest**

The Illinois Department of Transportation is asking elementary students in kindergarten through sixth grade to help promote work zone safety through art. IDOT, the Illinois State Board of Education, the American Traffic Safety Services Foundation and the Illinois Chapter of the American Traffic Safety Services Association are sponsoring the seventh annual Illinois Work Zone Safety Calendar Contest.

This year’s theme is “See Orange. Slow Down. Save Lives.” There are three categories for the competition divided by grades: K-1, 2-4 and 5-6 grades. Each school must select the top four posters from each category (12 posters total) and submit them to IDOT by Nov. 30. Children are eligible to participate in the contest even if their school chooses not to participate. The child’s parent or guardian can submit the drawings to IDOT.

The top 30 entries, 10 from each category, will move on to a judging panel who will determine the 12 finalists to be displayed in the 2013 Illinois Work Zone Safety Calendar. The top two finalists in each category will move on to compete in a national calendar contest.

For more information, go to http://www.dot.state.il.us/trafficsafety/WZS/WZScontest.html or contact IDOT’s contest coordinator, Jessica Keldermans, at (217) 785-3062.

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**U.S. Departments of Education and State**

**Annual International Education Week Kicks Off on Nov. 14**

The 12th annual International Education Week starts Nov. 14. This year’s theme is International Education: Inspiring Students Locally to Succeed Globally. International Education Week is a joint initiative of the U.S. Departments of Education and State. This annual initiative aims to promote international understanding and build support for international educational exchange by encouraging the development of programs that prepare Americans to live and work in a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study in the United States.

“President Obama and I are passionate about providing all of our children with an education that will enable them to succeed in a globally competitive economy where knowledge and innovation are more important than ever,” stated U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan in a recent letter. “And, with the world’s economies and societies becoming more and more interdependent, it is almost impossible to distinguish between domestic and international issues.” Visit http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/internationaled/iew.html to read it in its entirety.

Additional information, including a list of ways to get involved and more, is available on the Department of State’s website at http://iew.state.gov/index.cfm#nogo.
In the News

Weekly News Clips

ISBE has posted highlights from last week’s education news clips at

Employment Opportunities

ISBE External Vacancy List

An External Vacancy List for the Illinois State Board of Education is available at
http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm.